



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Pipeline and
Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration**

820 Bear Tavern RD
Suite 306
West Trenton, NJ 08628

NOTICE OF AMENDMENT

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May 14, 2009

Mr. Greg Bilinski
Vice President, Operations
Spectra Energy Transmission, LLC
5400 Westheimer
Houston, Texas 77056

CPF 1-2009-1005M

Dear Mr. Bilinski:

During May 2008, representatives of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and the New York Public Service Commission, pursuant to Chapter 601 of 49 United States Code, inspected Texas Eastern Transmission, LP's (TETCO) procedures for operations and maintenance in South Plainfield, New Jersey.

On the basis of the inspection, PHMSA has identified the apparent inadequacies found within Spectra's plans or procedures, as described below:

1. § 192.467 External corrosion control: electrical isolation.

(c) Except for unprotected copper inserted in a ferrous pipe, each pipeline must be electrically isolated from metallic casings that are a part of the underground system. However, if isolation is not achieved because it is impractical, other measures must be taken to minimize corrosion of the pipeline inside the casing.

TETCO procedures for addressing shorted casings are not adequate. TETCO has two similar, but different, written procedures addressing other measures for shorted casings when remediation of the shorted casing is not practical. TETCO representatives could not explain the need for the two procedures, nor explain the different requirements in each based on casing class location, odorized versus non odorized gas in the carrier pipe, filled casing with insulating materials versus non filled casings. TETCO representatives said that these two procedures were apparently redundant and that one of the two procedures was not needed. The procedures are: Procedure 1. Operations and Maintenance Plan, Section 8, Corrosion, and Procedure 2. Standard Operating Procedure 1-6010, Pipeline Patrol and Leakage Survey Criteria.

2. §192.615 Emergency plans.

(b) Each operator shall:

(2) Train the appropriate operating personnel to assure that they are knowledgeable of the emergency procedures and verify that the training is effective.

In its Operating and Maintenance Plan, Section 13.0 Procedural Section for Emergencies, TETCO utilizes language in 13.12 *Employee Training* describing “periodic training” and “performance of all participants shall be reviewed to determine areas of improvement.” “Periodic” and “reviewed” are broad terms with no schedule of training or measure to gauge the effectiveness of training. The procedures must be more definite in defining the term “periodic” and must give more direction on how to verify that the training is effective.

3. §192.745 Valve maintenance: Transmission lines.

(a) Each transmission line valve that might be required during any emergency must be inspected and partially operated at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least once each calendar year.

TETCO needs to provide additional guidance to insure that TETCO’s Valve Maintenance and Trouble Report Form 7T-32 is completed correctly by TETCO personnel.

In Standard Operating Procedure 5-5010, Valve Inspection and Maintenance, TETCO's procedures describe the annual operation of transmission lines required during an emergency. The reporting of this inspection and any resulting maintenance is recorded on the Valve Maintenance and Trouble Report (Form 7T-32). There is a split column on the form entitled % Valve operated. One of the split columns is entitled Open, the other entitled Closed. Per the supervisory staff, if a valve is operated by opening it partially or full, the % operated is entered into the Open split column. If the valve is in the closed position, and it fully or partially closed, the % operated would be entered into the Closed split column. There were instances recorded where both columns contained identical numbers, indicating a possible erroneous entry. The procedures must state more clearly to the operating staff on the recording of the % and direction each valve is operated.

Response to this Notice

This Notice is provided pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 60108(a) and 49 C.F.R. § 190.237. Enclosed as part of this Notice is a document entitled *Response Options for Pipeline Operators in Compliance Proceedings*. Please refer to this document and note the response options. Be advised that all material you submit in response to this enforcement action is subject to being made publicly available. If you believe that any portion of your responsive material qualifies for confidential treatment under 5 U.S.C. 552(b), along with the complete original document you must provide a second copy of the document with the portions you believe qualify for confidential treatment redacted and an explanation of why you believe the redacted information qualifies for confidential treatment under 5 U.S.C. 552(b). If you do not respond within 30 days of receipt of this Notice, this constitutes a waiver of your right to contest the allegations in this Notice and authorizes the Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety to find facts as alleged in this Notice without further notice to you and to issue a Final Order.

If, after opportunity for a hearing, your plans or procedures are found inadequate as alleged in this Notice, you may be ordered to amend your plans or procedures to correct the inadequacies (49 C.F.R. § 190.237). If you are not contesting this Notice, we propose that you submit your amended procedures to my office within 30 days of receipt of this Notice. This period may be extended by written request for good cause. Once the inadequacies identified herein have been addressed in your amended procedures, this enforcement action will be closed.

In correspondence concerning this matter, please refer to **CPF 1-2009-1005M** and, for each document you submit, please provide a copy in electronic format whenever possible.

Sincerely,

Byron E. Coy, PE
Director, Eastern Region
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

Enclosure: *Response Options for Pipeline Operators in Compliance Proceedings*